

To whom it may concern,

My name is John Kitchens. I run a tennis ladder in the Austin area, the Austin Tennis Net. It started off many years ago with support from the Wellness Committee at the Texas Department of Health, and has evolved into a nice size group of tennis players. We are a non-profit, with no charge to participate in the ladders, and raise funds through two tennis tournaments a year to meet the operating expenses.

We have a singles ladder and a doubles ladder. In the current round (a round lasts roughly 2-1/2 weeks and you play two matches in this time frame) there are 168 singles players and 50 doubles teams. The format is open, so that if you can't play for the next round you withdraw, and rejoin when you can play again. There are currently approximately 430 active players in the ladder.

The people that make up the ladder come from all over the Austin area. In an attempt to find out what people really want with our current and future tennis centers, I created a survey and sent out an email to all of the members, with encouragement to send to others as well. The results so far are as follows:

So far there are 132 respondents.

85 (63%) of the respondents preferred a new NW site in playing tennis over the proposed NE site.

43 (32%) of the respondents preferred the proposed NE site in playing tennis than a new NW site.

47 (35%) of the respondents would choose a NW site as the #1 choice to play.

59 (44%) of the respondents would choose a NW site as the top 2 choices to play.

15 (11%) of the respondents would choose a NE site as the #1 choice to play.

28 (21%) of the respondents would choose a NE site as the top 2 choices to play.

83 (62%) rated the Austin HS facility as poor or below average.

104 (93%) of the respondents are from Austin, whereas the remainder are from surrounding areas.

The purpose of the survey isn't to stop the proposed NE tennis center, but to see what the people that are playing tennis really want, and what would help in the future. In addition to a NW tennis center, where you can reserve a court with a place that has a real facility, there are also requests to support the current centers. I have played at Pharr recently, and some courts could not be reserved because of lights out, and another tennis enthusiast played at SATC recently and was told that many lights are out there also, despite many service requests that have been submitted.

In closing, I am attaching comments from some of the people that participated in the survey.

Thank you,

John Kitchens

Roger Hernandez:

Would like to see some courts in the Riverside area. .

L J Luciano

Northwest designated tennis facility is desperately needed

L D Wiley.

Please consider a NorthWest Austin Courts, which could be built at the existing NorthWest Austin Park (NWATC). It could rival SATC.

Randy Wright

Definitely need more courts in NW Austin~!

Nghia Quan:

NW Austin needs additional courts to Riata Park

Ray Silva

Not speaking against new courts, because I think we are all in agreement that we need many new courts to handle the existing number of players, but what is up with on-going maintenance at the existing courts?? Lights have been burned out at SATC for at least the last couple of months and this continues in spite of the staff there putting in many requisitions to get them fixed? Is the problem no money for light bulbs? Or is it that maintenance is such a low priority that it takes months to schedule a light bulb replacement? How can we be rationally talking about building more courts when we can even get the existing courts maintained properly????

Tom Embleton:

would like to see planning for Northwest facility in Riata area

Caroline Walton:

I'm very sad that a new tennis complex would go in on the East side of 290 . it's SO windy out there is that the only place the City of Austin can build a new complex?

Baris Guler:

We need public tennis courts (5-10 courts at least) in North/North-West Austin area.

Terry Hadley

I believe it is time to get courts built, more delays, in my opinion, increase the chances of the money getting funneled for another use.

James Wahrer:

We really need a North Tennis Center, this is probably the only city I know of where you have to pay to play, especially at night.

Navcen Iyengar:

would luv to have good public lighted courts up north close to arboretum.

Marilyn Schramm:

This city definitely needs more courts

Neal Graham:

how many tennis players live NE? Is Pharr booked as much as the inner city courts?

Nathan Brown:

Lighting needs to be improved at Austin High and on court 10 at the SATC.

Grace Sanders:

I think having a court in Northeast Austin is a good idea to promote neighborhood tennis, and offer another healthy activity for adults and children. However, I do not live in Northeast Austin and the people to ask are the people in that community. The Northeast Austin residents need to determine what their recreation priorities are.

Victor Evans:

Austin needs a huge PUBLIC facility like UT Intramural tennis facility with 40 courts.

Luis Campos:

We need a tennis center in NW Austin!

Natalie Foerster:

Evening court reservations are very difficult to obtain. It is impossible to get through on the phone. Isn't there a better way to do this?

Peter Antoniewicz:

There is a great need for more courts especially where players can get to them.

Lisa Del Dotto:

I would be more willing to rally for courts in NW AUSTIN, by Braker and 183.

Mike Byrd:

Sure do need public courts in North/NW Austin

Gus Garcia:

NE tennis facility proposed to be built next to new middle school named after my dad, so I thought it was cool idea to have courts built right by this school. Is Pharr really underused? I do agree that more courts northwest would be an instant hit, and could relieve lots of pressure at caswell. Time permitting, I can assist in effort.

Judy Popejoy:

The city of Austin needs to have more tennis courts to open up the city for more tournaments/activities. Some of the existing courts need to be better maintained.

Libby Ferguson

Where are the proposed NE courts to be built?

Jennifer Galle

Simply basic, we need more courts in Austin. The community of local tennis players is growing and to ignore this need is like telling those who like to walk a long Town Lake to walk down Mopac. Also, Austin HS has the worst courts I've ever been on that you actually have to pay for! As a public facility that our high school kids play on too, it's a very black spot on Austin's physical education record

David Angelow:

We need more courts with lights and better clubhouse facilities. The mess with bond issues for SA Tennis Expansion is a problem we need fixed

Tom Harrell

tennis-perfect urban sport equally suited to suburban and rural areas. A tennis court is a perfect place for diverse groups to gather and associate. Build them and they will come

Daniel Malinowski:

I think we need something on the I35 corridor - Connally gets very crowded and there is nothing from there to McCallum/Pharr.

Matt Sneed:

The city and UT should build a new SOTA 32 court facility at the Intramural courts. Shared facility would be great for Austinites, UT students and USTA (regional training facility)

John Fealy:

With the growing population in Cedar Park, of which most work in Austin. It is clear we need a major facility in north Austin. Almost every match I play involves me travelling from my place of work to a location further from where I live

Linda Miller

There are reservable courts in northeast, central and south austin. None in Northwest austin. The south austin courts are close pretty accessible to both the east and west sides of IH 35. How about some courts right up the north IH 35 corridor that are accessible to both the east and west sides of town?

Harold Gumm:

Jerry and I live in ne Austin, so the proposed ne courts would be perfect for us

Gregory Browning:

I would only pick the NE center because I live closer to that area. I would never drive up NW because I live centrally and there are plenty of courts to choose from in my area.

Victor Lui:

Connelly has lit courts but they are not always left on, very unpredictable. Could an agreement with the city and AISD be worked out so that they remain on during certain hours for free play?

Marsha Alexander:

For a city the size of Austin and the capital the court situation is sad.

Janet Luft:

A new public facility located central or northwest would help meet the growing tennis needs. The southwest is growing also, and it would be great to have one there. I wouldn't be traveling to the northeast center much at all. I like the idea of getting lights on more of the high school courts. Sure appreciate these efforts!!!!for such a great game!!

Robert Miller:

a NE tennis facility for the greater tennis playing public is a waste of resources best spent elsewhere